

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CAB-02 COME-00 DOTE-00

INR-07 FAA-00 L-03 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 SS-15

NSC-05 /091 W

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O 080050Z NOV 75

FM AMCONSUL MONTREAL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6947

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E.O. 11652C N/A

TAGS: PORG, EAIR, ICAO

SUBJ: ICAO - ELECTION NEW COUNCIL PRES

1. EARLY IN WEEK NOV 3 RUMORS CIRCULATED ICAO SHAT SCANS
FLOATING CANDIDACY FOR PRES: WILLOCHS, DIRECTOR CIVIL
AVIATION/NORWAY. US QUERY RESULTED IN PRES/COUNCIL CONFIRMING
THIS POSSIBILITY.

2. ON RETURN MONTREAL, US REP MET WITH SCAN COUNCIL
MEMBER (SWEDEN) WHO CONFIMRED THAT DIPLOMATIC DEMARCHE IS
UNDERWAY ON BEHALF WILLOCHS, ANDIF RPT IF DECISION MADE TO
FORMALLY FILE CANDIDACY SWEDEN REP WILL RECEIVE
INSTRUCTIONS TO DO SO. HOWEVER SWEDEN REP TOLD US REP THAT
IF US CANDIDACY FILED NORWAY WILL NOT RPT NOT FILE.

3. PRESIDENT/COUNCIL HAS TOLD US AND OTHERS THAT HE
DISCOURAGED NORWAY FILING BECAUSE WILLOCHS IS NOT
"TECHNICIANS," IS A LAWYER AND THEREFORE WOULD NOT
SUPPLEMENT KOTAITE SECGENSHIP (LAWYER/ADMINISTRATOR).

4. IN SUBSEQUENT MEETING WITH CANADIAN REP FOR GENERAL
DISCUSSIONS OF OVERALL SITUATION, CANADIAN REP ADVISED THAT
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NORWAY HAS MADE DEMARCHE IN OTTAWA, AND GOC SAID IT

WOULD SUPPORT WILLOCHS IF CANDIDACY FILED. CANADIAN REP SAID HE WISHED TO KEEP THIS VERY CONFIDENTIAL BECAUSE HE DOES NOT SEC GEN KOTAITE TO KNOW THAT THE HOST GOVERNMENT IS NOT SUPPORTING HIM.

5. CANADIAN REP TOLD US REP THAT OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS HAD BEEN ADVISED BY SCN REP THAT WILLOCHS WILL NOT BE FILED IF US FILES. CANADA SAID THAT IF US CANDIDACY FILED, CANADA WILL VOTE FOR US. HE SAID FURTHER THAT A DEMARCHE WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY ALTHOUGH REPRESENTATIONS BY DEPARTMENT TO CANADIAN EMBASSY, WASHINGTON WOULD BE HELPFUL TO MAKE CANDIDACY OFFICIAL. CANADA OFFERED A RUNDOWN OF VOTING STRENGTH AS OF NOW AND INDICATED THAT WITH AFRICANS AND SOVIETS US WOULD GO INTO FIRST BALLOT WITH 14 TO 16 VOTES - HE THOUGHT KOTAITE WOULD HAVE "6 TO 8 VOTES SOLID." HE MENTIONED SOME ABSTENTIONS. FYI. US REP THINKS KOTAITE WOULD HAVE MORE OPENING VOTES. END FYI.

6. CANADIAN REP SAID THAT IF US HAD CONSIDERED CANDIDACY TWO MONTHS AGO IT WOULD HAVE BEEN UNANIMOUS BECAUSE OF OPPOSITION TO OR "LUKE WARM SUPPORT" FOR KOTAITE. HE SAID THAT IN FAIRNESS TO KOTAITE WE SHOULD ALL REMEMBER THAT "NONE OF US" EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS ABOUT HIS CANDIDACY OVER THE THREE MONTHS PERIOD LEADING UP TO HIS FILING IN OCTOBER.

7. CANADIAN REP ASKED WHO WOULD PUT US REP IN NOMINATION. US REP REPLIED THAT WE HAD NOT YET MADE FINAL DECISION RE CANDIDACY BUT IF WE GOT THAT FAR, THE ELOQUENCE OF THE CANADIAN REP MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE. THE CANADIAN REP RESPONDED THAT HE WOULD BE GREATLY HONOURED BUT AS HOST GOVERNMENT REP IT MIGHT NOT BE APPROPRIATE SINCE GOC IS INVOLVED IN MANY SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS WITH SEC GEN AND SUCH A MOVE MIGHT BE INTERPRETED AS A "KNIFE IN THE BACK."

8. CANADIAN REP OFFERED OPINION EARLY IN DISCUSSION THAT IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR CANADA TO CONSIDER A CANDIDACY FOR PRESIDENCY ALTHOUGH THEY HAD EARLIER ON SERIOUSLY TALKED ABOUT FINDING A TOP LEVEL QUALIFIED CANDIDATE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NOMINATION, SPECIAL ELECTIONS, ELECTION CANDIDATES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MONTRE01826
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750388-0854
From: MONTREAL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751162/aaaacdhu.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 MAY 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <07 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ICAO - ELECTION NEW COUNCIL PRES
TAGS: PORG, EAIR, CA, ICAO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006